

2016 Urban Heat Management Study Public Comments

1. 40026: Save Louisville - move out to the country. It's cool out here!
2. 40215: I think it would be a great improvement if new trees were not being killed with "mulch volcanoes" and unneeded support stakes that prevent strong healthy root formation. Proper mulching should not be over 1-2" deep, to allow tree roots to be able to 'breathe.' Too much support does not allow the tree to be stressed by wind to stimulate strong root development. I notice how many young (and older) trees regularly die because of these unsupervised practices, wasting city resources and tax payer money.
3. 40204: Would it be advisable to consider moving above ground power lines underground to promote more tree planting? It seems most urban residential lots are hindered from tree planting due to all the space the poles and wires take.
4. 40205: I'm a teacher in JCPS and I believe that since JCPS is one of the largest property owners in the city, that schools are a natural place to plant lots of trees. I teach at Semple Elementary and my students and I have planted 8 trees so far. Two of them are Apple Trees so in a few years we get fresh fruit. We are currently growing 6 more trees to plant. I've also planted 5 trees at my house and converted my lawn to vegetation, including a rain garden to collect roof runoff.
5. 40217: I HONESTLY CANNOT BELIEVE THAT FINALLY THIS ISSUE HAS HIT THE NEWS.....I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A TREE LOVER AND IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD WE WOULD HAVE THE TREE CANOPY, HOWEVER I HAVE BEEN TOLD IT'S A SAFETY ISSUE TIME AND TIME AGAIN SOOOOOO LG&E HAS BEEN ALLOWED BY LAW TO CUT BEAUTIFUL TREES INTO A HORRIBLE SHAPE TO KEEP THE LIMBS OUT OF WIRES.....THEN OVER A FIVE YEAR SPAN THE TREE DIES. JUST RIDE DOWN CLARKS LANE. YEARS AFTER YEAR THIS HAS HAPPENED SOOOOOO THE GREAT WAY TO SOLVE THIS IS TO PAINT BUILDING ROOFS WHITE. THIS IS A JOKE.....LEAVE THE TREES ALONE.
6. 40206: This sounds like a great initiative. It would be great if there was a list of businesses/organizations in each neighborhood who could be contacted in order to plant trees. If some people could take the step to figure out which places are willing to plant trees per neighborhood, then a large number of citizens could be gathered to plant them.
7. 40206: Many years ago Louisville had staggered hours for downtown workers which helped to reduce traffic flows and congestion. This also helps with pollution. Even 15 minute rotations could help. Also, reserved parking areas with shuttle service or Tarc service would reduce the amount of traffic. I also feel there should be shuttle service for major events to relieve congestion.

8. 40206: The city of Louisville has put much time and money into studying the "heat island" and voices concern but continues to let developers clear cut properties and put in acres of concrete parking spaces. The planning commission appears to side with developers and allows them to clear cut with no concern for the environment. We need to stop cutting down trees for subdivisions and commercial properties. Green roofs in the downtown core would be beneficial. I know this is very expensive but perhaps a tax incentive?
9. 40207: I applaud your efforts to plant more trees- it is ironic that LG&E is aggressively butchering trees far more than necessary in the St Matthew's area at the same time we are trying to increase our tree canopy.
10. 40217: I think that it's great that the city is addressing environmental concerns but I'm curious if there are any grants or funding available for business's or organization to either 1) Create Green roofs on existing buildings or 2) Install cool roofs.
11. 40242: A Tree Ordinance...please...Along with how to care for private owned trees and the value of planting Hardwood Tree's...we need tree laws! Enough of the foo-foo talk...Tree me!
12. 40207: I am greatly encouraged by the recommendations the study includes to address the situation. However, I am concerned that the study seems to assign a lower priority to protection of existing mature trees than to planting new trees. The fact is that the no net loss ordinance is essential. We are not planting trees fast enough to make up for the mature tree losses, and it will take decades for new trees to have the impact that existing mature trees have on mitigating urban heat. It is economically much more feasible to protect what we already have rather than try to make up for our mistakes after the fact. My hope is that the recommendation for a tree protection ordinance would be moved into its own, standalone recommendation to emphasize its importance. The tree commission also recommended such an ordinance and we know that it went nowhere. Now is a second chance to do the right thing. Thanks!
13. 40203: I am glad for the study. I do really think the issue needs to be brought up to the National Weather Service about moving the official weather station away from SDF. It is skewed too warm, and has been for years. Meteorologist John Belski has talked about this for years, and I hope it's considered. While Louisville has a pretty good tree canopy, it could always be better. Let's plant more trees!
14. 40242: May 16, 5:50pm -- Just found out @ this study & presentation @ Spalding tonite! Too late to go tonite, so plan to go to June 8 hearing at Middletown Library. PLEASE have Dr. Stone presentation on that date as well, for best background for the public hearing! I am notifying several Green activists I know, who were also unaware of tonight's presentation, and inviting them to the June 8 hearing.

15. 40207: Poor science, bad modeling approach Given the limited resources the City has to combat urban heat island impacts, I think we would be better off to have a defensible model insuring an accurate assessment of the problem (current conditions) and solutions (model results) that make sense. Decisions made based on this scientifically unsound study will be misguided and result in lost opportunities. Before accepting this report and its "findings", I would hope that the Metro Council, Office of Sustainability, or whoever will have this work reviewed by a competent technical body.
16. 40243: Bravo for your efforts.
17. 40204: Urban heat island needs to be addressed. Can we work with roofers and shingle suppliers to encourage lighter colors? And if it can't be done voluntarily, perhaps tax incentives for light colors and or an additional energy tax on dark colors could be implemented to cover societies cost for this heat. But we need to do everything we can also not to further encourage suburban flight, so we need regional or state wide solutions also. And we can't just plant trees, we have to maintain them and not kill them in a few years with mulch volcanoes as is happening now, even by city workers.
18. 17013: In response to your request for public comment on the Cool502 initiative we would like to share some insight on the roofing related proposal. Carlisle Construction Materials is a leading supplier of commercial roofing systems in the United States and are the largest manufacturer of white, tan, grey and dark colored single-ply roofing membranes and feel we can provide some relevant unbiased information to help craft public policy. We conduct numerous training programs for Architects, Specifiers, Roof Consultants and Roofing Contractors to help them understand all the interactions that need to be considered when selecting and designing roofing systems. The proposal to add trees and vegetation within the city and to encourage energy efficient measures like added insulation appear to be reasonable and in sync with the sustainability movement. Our own city of Carlisle, Pa. has many tree lined streets that help create shade in the summertime and seem to increase the property values of the neighborhoods. Adding insulation saves both cooling and heating usage and has little downside. On the other hand, commercial roofing system selection and design is a more complicated matter. In our opinion it wouldn't be in the best interest of the city of Louisville to adopt a white roof code mandate or incentivize the use of white roofs. Louisville is located in a heating dominated climate (ASHRAE Zone 4) and there is a heating penalty associated with using a white roof in your area. In most of the energy analysis reports we run for clients it shows the heating penalty of a white roof exceeds the cooling benefit and ends up in less energy efficient buildings. There are numerous other trade-offs in long term weatherability, UV resistance, hail resistance, snow and ice accumulation, rooftop safety hazards from frost, dew or ice that are hard to see on the surface of a white roof. When a reflective roof isn't designed properly, additional complications can appear such as

condensation accumulation within the roofing assembly that can cause vital components in the roofing system to fail prematurely. These condensation issues are not covered by roofing warranties and can lead to legal battles. White roofs also reflect heat back up into the atmosphere or into adjacent windows or walls. One study by the University of Stanford indicated that wide spread adoption of white roofs would actually increase global warming. This issue is widely debated within the building science community and, unfortunately there is not a “one size fits all” approach. The selection of a roofing membrane should be entrusted to the design professionals who are sure to consider all of the environmental and building science factors when designing a roofing system. Similar white roof mandate proposals were defeated in 4 separate code hearings (ASHRAE 189.1, IGCC, IECC and the city of Denver) where all sides of the story were presented. Roofing system selection and design are fairly complicated and a one size fits all strategy rarely works which is why we have multiple options available for our customers. We are certainly available to discuss any of these issues in greater depth and we would appreciate being apprised of any specific public policy proposals related to roofing issues.

19. 80031: I represent a trade association of roofing manufacturing companies who make a wide variety of commercial roofing products, including white/reflective membranes. Roofs are very complex, involve approximately 10-15 different components, and all those components affect the energy efficiency of the building, which in turn affect carbon emissions, which in turn affects urban heat island. It's not just the roof color that affects urban heat island. Our Association is well educated on the issues of urban heat island, energy efficiency, and the interplay between them and the impact on them from the building envelope. We'd be happy to provide information as you consider various policy recommendations for commercial buildings in the City of Louisville. We have a long track record of working with regulatory agencies as well as building code and building standard setting organizations to advance sustainable and energy efficient building standards and policies. Please keep me informed of any related policies/legislation/ordinances. Thank you!
20. 40205: I suggest having public-friendly text summaries for each neighborhood instead of the scary-to-most-people data table. Also for the public, it would be helpful to have the recommendations shown in context with any planned or proposed activities for each neighborhood. Perhaps a future Sustain Louisville update could include a sort of neighborhood scorecard that tracks these efforts against the study's recommendations. Associated projected costs would be helpful too. Thank your for this thorough and informative study.